METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR REFERENCING AND
PROCESSING AUDIO INFORMATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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Mechanisms and techniques are provided which allow a server computer system, such as a web server, to generate information, such as a web page, which includes an audio resource locator (ARL) configured in accordance with the invention. The ARL includes a reference to audio data, an audio command, and an audio server reference that

10   identifies an audio server computer system that can process the reference to audio data within the ARL according to the audio command within the ARL to producing output, which may be audio or another type of output. The server computer system can serve the information including the ARL to an originator of a request for such information, such as a browser on a client computer system. A client computer system configured with a

15   browser can obtain the information containing the ARL and can reference the ARL which causes the client computer system to send a request to process audio data to the audio server specified in the ARL. The request includes the audio command and optionally an audio output format and the references to audio data in the ARL. An audio server computer system can receive and process such requests by obtaining the audio data

20   identified by the reference(s) to audio data in the request and by obtaining the audio command specified in the request. The audio server computer system then produces output, conforming to the audio output format specified in the request, by processing the referenced audio data in accordance with the specified audio command, thereby offloading audio processing from the browser and the client computer system onto the

25   audio server computer system. Once processed, the audio server computer system can return the output to the client computer system in a format compatible with the client computer system. The ARL of the invention can include complex audio processing command such as merge, compare, convert, mix, sample, concatenate, resample, offset and the like which the audio server computer system is capable of processing when a

30   client references an ARL.